

FORM NO. 51.61  
MAY 1949

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY

Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR.

26 January 1953

SUBJECT

Agricultural Conditions in the Pisek District

NO. OF PAGES

1

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.

1 (7 pages)

(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

50X1-HUM

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Economic

General Information on Conditions in Agriculture

1. Farmers' Cooperative (JZD) MISOVICE, District Pisek.

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The [ ] JZD [ ] is located in MISOVICE.

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This locality consists altogether of approximately 40 farms of various sizes from small holdings to about 25 hectares. This JZD is the cooperative of first-rate, which means that each member works his own land, uses cooperative's machinery, and carries out the seeding and all other work in accordance with the overall plan. So far only 15 small holders and small farmers have joined the cooperative, the total acreage of which is about 25 hectares. Farmers with acreage over 20 hectares ("Village Rich") are not being accepted as members. Outside the cooperative there are still 5 independent farmers with land over 20 hectares, and 15 with land under 20 hectares.

2. New Farming Methods.

New farming methods have been [ ] in this area for the first time

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this year. "Cross Sowing" of corn, wheat, etc., is being urged by the official propaganda, but it is not being accepted very readily by the farmers, who object that sowing machines of Czech manufacture have their rows 11 to 12 c [ ] apart, and not 20 c [ ] as the Russian machines. They also point out that the land sowed with Russian machines according to the new methods produces even less than the land sowed by the Czech machines in the normal way.

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3. Supply of Seeds, Feeding Stuffs and Fertilizers.

The cooperatives have priority in the supply of seeds, feeding stuffs and fertilizers. These items are distributed by a local national committee, and the major part of them goes to the cooperative even if this has a minor acreage. What is left over goes to private farmers as bonuses for fulfilling or exceeding the prescribed quotas. In JZD of first grade the farmers have to provide their own seeds. They receive no regular wages, but come under the National Insurance scheme. Private farmers receive occasionally a very

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small allocation of fertilizers. They receive no feeding stuffs except as a bonus for exceeding the plan, and even then the amount is very small according to "units of fats" supplied (milk, butter, etc.).

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an independent farmer, received for the whole year of 1951 as bonus 120 kilograms of feeding stuffs for 9 head of cattle.

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Private farmers do not get any allocation of seeds whatsoever.

#### 4. Local Agricultural Planning.

Private farmers and cooperatives receive their instructions about sowing from the Local National Committee, which instructs them what acreage they have to sow with various products. This is being done on the following basis. The local national committee receives complete sowing plan for the whole locality from the Agricultural Department of the District National Committee. They sub-divide this plan for the cooperatives and for single private farmers in accordance with the acreage and quality of land. In practice the bigger acreage <sup>private</sup> a farmer has the higher are the prescribed quotas, without any respect to the quality of land and the manpower available. After seeding has been completed, all concerned have to report the acreage sowed with various products back to the Local National Committee, which then makes small adjustments in the plan. At the same time they all receive their prescriptions of quotas to be handed in after the harvest. The private farmers receive the heaviest quota, especially if their acreage is over 20 hectares.

#### 5. Farm Machinery.

In PISEK District all tractors, harvesters and threshing machines belonging to farmers owning more than 20 hectares, have been taken over by state machinery stations in 1951. At the beginning the farmers were given a receipt with estimated price of the particular machine, and promised payment. Now the machinery is just being confiscated without any promise of payment at all. Estimated prices of the machinery are usually less than 50% of cost price. The machinery belonging to "Middle Farmers" (10-20 hectares) has also been registered, but so far it has been left in the possession of the farmers. The tariffs for various work are all worked out on piece-work basis (acreage worked), and vary according to the kind of

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earth (heavy, medium and light), and according to the kind of work done (ploughing, reaping, sowing, etc.). Private farmers cannot borrow machinery from state machinery stations at all.

6. State Machinery Stations (Statni strojni stanice)

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The [ ] State Machinery Stations [ ] in CERNICE [ ]

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[ ] has its branches in all farming localities, and allots machinery to them as necessary from a central pool. In 1951 this [ ] had approximately 50 tractors of various types, and all other necessary machines like harvesters, threshing machines, electric motors, etc. In the course of the year 1951 the number of serviceable machines fell very rapidly to about one third, because of bad maintenance, lack of spare parts and inexperienced handling. At the peak of the autumn land work there were over 30 tractors out of order. The station is handicapped by the shortage of trained fitters, and by the shortage of accommodation for the machinery. As a result of this, very few repairs could be carried out during the winter. The new machinery is often ruined beyond repair by inexperienced handling in a very short time.

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7. Repairs to Farm Buildings.

No building materials are being allotted for the repairs of farm buildings and houses. When it is absolutely necessary to carry out even a small repair, for example, to a chimney, a commission composed of representatives of local national committee, and local fire brigade has to inspect the site and certify the necessity of the repair. Then the local national committee allots building materials, which are usually not sufficient at all, and the farmer has to buy the rest on the black market, or trade food stuffs for it. Repairs to farm buildings owned by private farmers are not being allowed at all. When they apply for an allocation of building materials they are told to join the JED, where they will not have to worry about repairs, because new buildings will be provided. The building of new buildings is not allowed, except for JED for which mainly communal stables are built.

8. Farmers' Rations.

The conditions as regards the official rations for private farmers are very bad. Unless they fulfil their prescribed quotas they do not receive any ration cards at all. Farmers with acreage below 20 hectares receive ration

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cards for sugar and soap only, if they fulfill the plan. These rations are 1 kilogram of sugar for adults, and 0.5 kilograms for a child, and one small cake of soap per month. Farmers with over 20 hectares of land do not get any ration cards at all. Also farmers who employ even one person, even if that one person is a member of his family except wife and children, are called capitalists, and therefore do not receive any rations.

9. Insolidarity of Peasants.

The old solidarity of the peasants is no longer there. The small holders are usually the first ones to found the JKD, because they can get some profit out of it, as the prescribed quotas are very small. In this case, they usually have a great deal of food stuffs left over for trading on the black market. At the same time, they agitate against the larger farmers, and do not help them in any way. But it is still almost impossible to find a happy and contented peasant, even among the members of the JKD. The private farmers are trying to keep their land at all costs, by very hard work, and [ ] they are thus helping the regime. [ ]

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[ ] in propaganda from abroad they should be discouraged to do this.

[ ] village where a farm of 30 hectares of land is being run and worked by one man, his wife and two eleven year old children.

10. Meat Quotas.

The farmers with acreage over 20 hectares do not receive any payments for the cattle handed in towards their meat quotas until the end of the year. Their quotas are usually so high, that they cannot fulfill them, and have to pay a fine. The payments for their products handed in are, therefore, held up and the fine deducted from them. They have to pay all expenses for transporting the cattle to the slaughter-house themselves. If a farmer has not fulfilled his quota, he is not allowed to kill a pig for home use. When he applies for permission to do so, he is told that he has an animal ready for slaughtering, and he is prescribed an additional quota. Farmers are also not allowed a part of a killed animal as their quota, as this has to be handed in <sup>in</sup> "live weight". In exceptional cases, when the Local National Committee is not very strict, two farmers can hand in their quotas together, and kill the other animal for their own use.

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11. Medical Care.

The general state of health among the peasants is very poor. There is a shortage of doctors, medicines and hospital beds, and the majority of the peasants can hardly afford these even if they are available. [redacted] TB among the peasant population is 60 to 80% higher than it was before the war. According to the statement of a District Red Cross official from BLATNA, the number of TB cases in BLATNA District in 1951 was 100% higher than in 1937. The majority of TB cases are among the children of the farmers, as they have to help their parents even in heavy work, and at the same time suffer from under-nourishment. Independent private farmers have to pay their subscriptions to the National Insurance scheme, but they are not entitled to any benefits. If a farmer or member of his family is ill, they have to pay their own doctor's bill, medicines and hospital treatment.

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12. Saw Mills, Quarries, Mills, etc.

At present there are no privately owned mills, saw mills, quarries or other country enterprises. All such privately owned enterprises have either been closed down or incorporated in national enterprises. All existing mills are incorporated in the "Corporation of Czechoslovak Mills", (Sdružení Ůs Mlýnů, N.P.), which in Bohemia is sub-divided into five regions, North, South, East, West and Central. All saw mills have been nationalised, and included in the "Woodworking Industry, N.C.". The sand pits belong to the Nationalised building enterprise, and the quarries have been incorporated in "Stoneworking Industry N.C.".

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13. Ownership of Woods.

The private ownership of small woods still exists, but the owners are not allowed to fell trees without official permission. They receive their prescribed quotas for various kinds of timber to be handed in, and they can keep what is left over for themselves (branches, roots, etc.). The owners of woods are urged to form so-called "Wood Cooperatives" (Lesní Družstvo), and if they do so, they get

/their quotas .....

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their quotas together, and sub-divide them among themselves.  
The quotas are very high. [redacted]

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a Wood Cooperative has been formed at the beginning of 1951,  
and its prescribed quota of timber for that year was 110 cubic  
m [redacted] while during the German occupation the highest quota  
for the whole locality used to be 50 cubic m [redacted]

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14. Cultural Life and Activities.

The old cultural activities in the village now hardly exist,  
except for Communist sponsored enterprises. Only officially  
recognised societies and cooperatives are allowed to arrange  
cultural and social activities. Only Communist inspired plays,  
full of political propaganda, are allowed and therefore very few  
peasants attend. The entrance fee for these are not very high,  
but still it is difficult to afford them. The peasants also  
have to work so hard that they have very little time left for  
anything else.

15. Manpower.

There is a general tendency among the peasants to leave the country  
and obtain work in the factories. At the beginning this tendency  
received encouragement from official quarters, but now it is strictly  
controlled. The District [redacted] offices and "Social Department" 50X1-HUM  
the District National Committee have to approve every single case  
of youth entering apprenticeship. These officials also have the  
power to send a youth into any trade if they think it necessary.  
Because of shortage of farm labour, it is now forbidden for persons  
employed in agriculture to leave their employment and trade, and  
they are not even allowed to move into the same or similar job in  
another district. This applies also to all other trades.

16. Old Age Pensions.

Retired farmers receive no old age pensions if they have some close  
relative capable of looking after them. When they have no close  
relatives, they receive a pension of Kcs. 750 per month. The  
Farmers' Old Age Settlements made before 1948 are still valid, but  
the pensioner is allowed to receive in kind only the amount of

/products ...

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products which corresponds to the official ration for "self-suppliers." The rest of the commodities must be handed in, and the pensioner receives payment in lieu (Výměnek).

17. Propaganda Campaign against "Village Rich".

Propaganda against "Village Rich" is going on continuously in newspapers, radio, official speeches, etc. These farmers are completely at the mercy of the Party, Government and Local Authorities. Very little sabotage is to be found among these, as they are afraid, because of frequent controls and searches for unregistered cattle, poultry and hidden supplies. If anything is found, the farmer goes for trial. Usually he receives a prison sentence or is sent to a [ ] camp, and his property is confiscated. [ ] a farmer named MUZIK, 50X1-HUM from SLAVKOVICE who reported to the District National Committee that, because of his age (68), he is not able to work his farm of 28 hectares alone with his wife. For some time nothing happened, but when the authorities found out that MUZIK did not sow all his fields, he was arrested and sentenced to five years in prison for economic sabotage. At the same time all his property was confiscated.

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